

JEAN ELIOT'S LETTER

A Chronicle of Society

DEAREST SUSAN: The time is getting short, honey, until you will be wending your way Southward, and how I am counting the days. It seems outrageous that so many months should go by without a sight of your beaming face, but well, the wait is nearly over now. I believe mother is almost as thrilled over your coming as I am, and you know how much that is. It seems now that he will not be able to get away before Thanksgiving, but I suppose the time will go by before we know it.

Now for the news. Edith Gracie, who has been visiting the Baroness Trautson, on her way back to the States, has two attractive girls visiting her, Miss Moffett and Miss Potter. They are all going off for the week-end on a house party, but I hear they both left a trail of broken hearts, even after a few days' stay.

It seems as though Washington might be turned over to Southern society this October to an extent not seen since the civil war. Elections are the cause. There being but one party in the South, the fight is over with the primaries. Southern Senators and members of Congress can afford to stick to their jobs and let the campaigns look after themselves. It is far otherwise in the North, with folk from the North and West. Their fences are many of them, sadly in need of mending, and the demand for personal attention to their campaigns is insistent. Mrs. Britton and Mrs. Borden are two prominent women whose husbands are trying to get home and who will go with them to help the cause along. Mrs. Thomas has already accompanied Senator Thomas to Colorado. Mrs. Murdock and Marcia are in Kansas helping the Hon. Victor Murdock in his race for the Senate. The Campaigns are going home just as soon as they can get away.

Mrs. Cummings is now in Iowa, mayhap taking a little campaigning for the Senate on the side. Throughout Iowa there is a very strong idea that Senator Cummings should come day be President of the United States, and understand that the thing back of it is the feeling ingrained in the minds of most of the people of the State that Mrs. Cummings is the one woman best fitted to be mistress of the White House.

Mrs. Hoke Smith and Mrs. Fletcher, in the other hand, belong to the happy element whose worrying is all over. Mrs. Smith plans a trip home this fall, but it is just for the pleasure of going home, and Mrs. Fletcher says you couldn't drive her out of Washington. She is naturally much interested in the new Congressional Club building, which is nearing completion. Mrs. Fletcher spent the summer in Ireland, somewhere on the Irish Sea, and gives a glowing account of her visit.

The middies are back at Annapolis after their summer cruise, and they have tales to tell of a more stirring trip than any made by midshipmen in recent years. The giant Missouri and Illinois, with the officers-to-be aboard, were in the harbor at Gravesend, England, in the day when war was declared between England and Germany, on August 2, and the men received a cable from President Wilson cautioning them to remain neutral.

Leaving Gravesend, they met but few of the war ships reported to be across the Atlantic. They did speak the German cruiser Bremen, but received no answer, and just before entering the English waters the vessel sighted an English ship, which was leading a captured steamer to the nearest British port. I suppose the usual crop of girls will now begin their usual Saturday pilgrimage to the Naval Academy for the hope and football games. It is such a dear old town, it hardly needs the hope of brass buttons as a drawing card, but, of course, the combination is irresistible.

Mrs. Charles W. Miltenberger and William F. Miltenberger are back in town after a lengthy visit in New York. They are at the Clayton for the present, but probably will open their New York house later on. Did I ever send you William Miltenberger's book, "The Pelicans," which tells all the news of the happiness, which seems a large order for a young man, but it is well worth reading.

Dorothy Bennett is home again after a three months' absence at Chamberland, Wis. The summer home of Dorothy Bennett. She has one more year of school before graduating from Holy Cross, but expects the winter to take up a music course at Praboulin Institute, with the idea of graduating from there later. She is a very talented young person and mighty pretty, too.



MRS. WILLIAM S. McCOMBS.

Dorothy McCombs is still with the Letters in the country. So are Col. and Mrs. Williams and Francis. Their house is being remodeled, and they are enjoying the country for some time, a long separation. Colonel Cottrill, of the British army, who made part of the trip around the world with them, is also a house guest, and altogether it is a gay little party. Mrs. Williams and Francis are contemplating a visit to white Sulphur Springs before returning to the R street house, but they have made no definite plans as yet.

When Prince Hermann Hatzfeldt, the future Duke of Trachenberg, arrived in New York with the princess the day to take up his duties as counselor of the German embassy—he will stay in the country for the present, while Hans von Heimhausen acts in the same capacity here—the first thing he and his wife did on landing was to make a round of the shops for the purpose of purchasing a complete outfit. For they had been recently ordered to Brussels, and when they were broke out had just completed the furnishing of their new house and had lived there exactly forty-eight hours when they were handed their passports. They were obliged to leave all their belongings, even to their jewelry, family pictures, heirlooms, and the like, behind them. Indeed, the princess considered herself fortunate in being able to carry away her jewelry. When, with considerable difficulty, they finally got to Berlin, the prince received orders to leave at a few hours' notice for the United States; the train by which he and the princess were obliged to travel was so crowded with refugees bound for Rotterdam, that it was impossible to dream of taking any baggage, even if they could have found time to buy an elementary outfit, so they decided to wait until their arrival in New York.

Prince Hermann Hatzfeldt-Trachen-

berg is a totally different person from the Prince Hermann Hatzfeldt-Trachenberg, who is so well known in this country, having been secretary of the German embassy for some time, and charge d'affaires during the time that elapsed between the death of Baron Speck von Sternberg and the arrival of the present ambassador. The latter, moreover, is half American and has a half American wife, the former Marie von Stumm, whose father, Baron Ferdinand von Stumm, was German ambassador at Madrid.

Jack Belt has been having the most interesting time lately. He is in Mexico as private secretary to John R. Silliman, the vice and deputy consul at Saltillo. Mr. Silliman is at present on some confidential mission for the State Department, which keeps him closely attached to the train of President Carranza and Jack goes everywhere with him, so he is getting a pretty good idea of history in the making. For I think Jack writes that he may be back the 1st of October, but has no definite plans yet.

It is curious how every day or two you hear something that gives you a different angle on the extent and variety of the suffering that is being caused by this miserable war business. Mrs. Tom Tallafiero read me letters that she had received from a friend of hers, who lives in the north of Scotland. Two almost made me cry with the picture they presented of the utter destitution that exists among the fisher folk of that section.

It is a barren coast, crops are few and scant; indeed, the whole dependence of the community is on the fishing industry, and they have gone completely out of business. In the first place, the sea is not safe from five-night attacks by torpedo boats and the like, and the men have gone to the front, and deep-sea fishing is not in occupation. The can be turned over to the women folk.

The women and children are almost starving, their only support being the help that the center of the country manages to give them and the few pennies they can earn knitting socks for the soldiers. A few of the well-to-do people of the community—and there are only a few who are well-to-do—supply them with food and pay them a couple of pence for the completed article. It is pitifully little, but they are grateful for the chance to make that much.

Mrs. Tallafiero hasn't been very well since her return from a motor trip, which she and Mr. Tallafiero took this summer through Virginia, but when she gets better she is hoping to arrange an informal subscription card party among her friends for the benefit of the Scotch women and children who are in a good cause, only, and I hope will meet with much success, for somehow their plight has gone home to me as larger tragedies do not.

Do you know I think we have come to feel proud of the part the women are playing in this horror. I am told that throughout England women have taken positions as clerks, as secretaries, driving street cars even, doing menial work, in short, and turning their salaries over to the families of the men whose positions they are filling; they may join the army, feeling that their wives and children are not destitute and condemned to be a burden on the community. Our sex does come up to the service, when there is any real work for us, doesn't it—even if we do indulge in peace parades and such once in a while?

I was talking the other day to a prominent clergyman, who is just back from England, and he told me that in spite of the way the English have buckled down to work—perhaps because of that very thing—there is no air of excitement. He says that New York is really more upset over the war than London, that the theaters there are still open and playing to good houses, and that people go about their business calmly. The streets are full of territorialism, but they are not in a rout of great enthusiasm. He also tells the story of stopping a newsboy, whose papers bore the headline "Great German Defeat," and asking him, "Is there any real news in the paper," to which he replied, "Yes, sir, all about the cricket match."

I met Mrs. Leigh Palmer, wife of Lieutenant Commander Palmer, downtown the other day and heard the most interesting account of her war-time experiences. She has just reached Washington after a thrilling trip, and maybe she isn't glad to be home again. She and her three children, all mere babies, went abroad early in the spring. Mrs. Palmer left the children with a nurse and governess in France and went to England for a round of visits. While she was there the war broke out. When she tried to get transportation to bring the children out of France she found it impossible. It seemed for a long time that it would be impossible for her to go into France to join them. Finally, after persuading the officials that it was absolutely necessary for her to get her babies, and being the wife of an American naval officer, she was allowed to go. After reaching her family and gathered up her several trunks, suitcases, baby carriage, servants, and babies, she found getting out of the country to be even harder than getting in. There was no way of obtaining proper and sufficient food. Mrs. Palmer and the nurses had to manage all the baggage and carry suitcases and hand luggage, for there were no porters to be had for love or money. Suffice it to say that, after struggles that now seem like wilder dreams, they reached England. There they were splendidly treated and before long secured passage on the St. Louis and came safely home. While in London, Mrs. Palmer assisted in seeing for the Red Cross, and she said the saddest thing she ever saw was a roomful of women busy making munitions, made and the like for the use of the healthy young soldiers then passing by the door. She spoke of the nurses had to manage all the baggage and carry suitcases and hand luggage, for there were no porters to be had for love or money. 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